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IN MEMORIAM

KATE FIELD—1840-1896

JOSEPH MEREDITH TONER—1825-1896

The Board of Managers of the Columbia Historical Society on October 26, 1896, appointed a committee to prepare suitable memorials respecting three of its charter members who had died during the preceding summer.

These deceased members are Miss Kate Field, who died May 19, 1896; Dr Joseph Meredith Toner, who died July 30, 1896, and Dr George Brown Goode, who died September 6, 1896.

The memorial as to Dr Toner was prepared by Justice Martin F. Morris and read before the Society December 7, 1896. At the same meeting Mr W J McGee read a memorial of Kate Field. These memorials are printed herewith.

As to Dr Goode, it was decided not to prepare a separate memorial for these records, because arrangements were in progress for a *general* memorial meeting, to be participated in by various organizations of which he was a member. Such memorial meeting was subsequently held on his natal day, February 13, 1897, in the National Museum, of which he was Director at the time of his death. The proceedings of that meeting, with the memorial addresses, are soon to be published.

MEMORIAL OF KATE FIELD

Kate Field first saw the light in St Louis in 1840; her eyes were darkened in Honolulu May 19, 1896.

Born on the banks of the great river of the continent just as the wave of pioneer conquest swept across it, Kate Field breathed from the first an atmosphere of activity and self-reliance. Nurtured in the "future great city" of local prophecy, she early caught something of the spirit of the towering ambitions and vast enterprises by which she was surrounded. Here were planted the seeds of that courage, patriotism, probity, and aggressive straightforwardness which gave character to all her later life; and when transported from the bustle of a busy frontier town to the Athens of America the graces of culture and tranquillity were the more welcome and the more readily absorbed by reason of their novelty. In Massachusetts her education was thorough. She mastered the accomplishments proper to the gentlefolk of New England, developing special proficiency in literature and the arts. Her aptitude in music and painting led her abroad; and under the tutelage of the masters in their generation, in Florence and in London, her artistic culture was matured. During her childhood in the enterprising interior town there was born in her an intense appreciation of her natal nation, perhaps only the deeper because of her foreign ancestry. During her girlhood in staid New England she met some of the choicest spirits of the age, and her love of the country which had brought them forth was deepened. During her young womanhood in sunny Italy and stolid Britain, as in other lands of Europe, she constantly compared and contrasted national characteristics, with the result that her *amor patriæ*

glowed only the more brightly, and in the end she came to regard the American people as the flower of civilization, and her adult life was controlled by this sentiment. America has produced no more devoted patriot than Kate Field.

The child of a playwright and journalist, Miss Field's predilections were for the stage and the press. During her training abroad she combined histrionic study with writing, and became a valued foreign correspondent of several leading American journals; and on her return to this country she attained merited celebrity on the stage, particularly in New York during and after 1870. As time passed her literary work became more serious, and gradually she withdrew from Terpsichore and clove unto Pallas. Her half dozen or more published books, her scores of important articles, and her hundreds of notes and notices sparkle with wit and scintillate with originality, and typically illustrate the lighter vein of modern literature; yet all her more extended writings are illumined by the glow of exalted purpose and steadfast conviction—the purpose of improving and ennobling humanity, and the conviction of success in the effort. The writings display wide, almost extraordinary, versatility, ranging from dramatic notice and mirth-provoking skit to grave record of fact and mechanical principles, as in the "History of Bell's Telephone," and even into sober philosophy, as in the analysis of the life and work of Fechter. As a dramatist, Miss Field was literary, perhaps too literary for the taste of the times; as a litterateur, she was dramatic, perhaps too dramatic for permanency; yet she had the happy faculty of combining the two generally distinct arts of acting and writing, and the products of her pen have contributed to the molding of thousands of minds, just as the same and other thousands of minds are more lightly molded by the soon-forgotten drama; and it is to be remembered of Kate Field's writings, as of her impersonations and music, that they were healthy in tone, always pleasant to the taste, and good in effect.

A thorough American of the best type, her life abroad did

much to inspire respect for republican institutions, as well as for the youngest and greatest of the nations. Her energy carried her everywhere, and her graces of mind and manner made her welcome everywhere. There were no circles which did not open unto her; when Queen and Empress Victoria, then in Osborne castle, first placed the telephone to her ear, it was Kate Field's voice that pulsed through the wire to greet her; and into every circle she carried the aroma of freedom, the charm of republican simplicity, the ease and assurance proper to the scion of an ascendant nation. Yet her vigorous Americanism was toned with an opulent charity which at once disarmed and conquered antagonism. Her influence on foreign thought concerning her country was great, and as of the wave in sluggish lake, which rolls on in ever-widening circles.

As faith blossoms in hope and bears fruit in charity, so patriotism matures in public service; and although she was debarred by sex from battlefields and legislative halls, Kate Field's enthusiastic Americanism was not lost unto her countryfolk—her leading rôle in the drama of life was that of a public benefactor. An exponent and defender, during her young womanhood abroad, of American institutions and characteristics, she was compelled to study critically the elements and conditions of our national progress, and on returning to the land of her birth she at once set herself to the task of repairing every flaw in our national armor which the shafts of alien antagonism perchance might penetrate. The energy and the breadth of view displayed in the performance of this self-appointed task were remarkable; no line of American activity—industrial, esthetic, or institutional—escaped her attention, and none failed to receive benefit through her efforts. Perceiving, so early as 1880, that the individuality of American women was blighted by defective and over-expensive costume, she initiated a coöperative dress association, which failed financially because premature—the bicycle had not yet arisen to rend the fetters of effete fashion forever,—though the influence of the movement was not lost on

the minds of American women ; perceiving that American wine-consumers were at the same time taxed and poisoned by the importation of inferior products of the vine, she preached the gospel of American viticulture and wine-making, and thereby enriched and enlarged the vineyards of America ; perceiving that the esthetic lagged behind the material in the development of the country, she inaugurated an art crusade which leavened the land from ocean to ocean and led to the creation of a national art association and to a liberal legislation which constitute perhaps the most enduring American monument to Kate Field. These are but examples of her good works ; their name is legion. She reached the people through magazine articles, press correspondence, public lectures, personal conferences, all without number, in the course of a life phenomenally active even for this ever active country, and she reached their hearts through her own inspiring enthusiasm. Like other good citizens, she had some private interests, but these were ever subordinate to the public weal ; in whatsoever enterprise she engaged, her interest and charity of purpose were evident to all who knew her, and her penetrating eye—cold to some, but clear to all—looked through sham and affectation and sought out that which was best and noblest in those with whom she came in contact. America is richer, more cultured, and nobler, and the world is better because of Kate Field's life.

Through her interest in national affairs Miss Field drifted to the national capital as the spark flies upward ; her weekly review, "Kate Field's Washington," issued regularly from 1890 to 1895, constitutes one of the foremost American examples of personal journalism. Although she secured the aid of others in conducting this enterprise, the greater part of the work was her own, and the editorial and other items were characterized by such vigor, vividness, and fearlessness as to render the review a peculiarly faithful mirror of men and events during the lustrum of its life. To the future historian of the national capital "Kate Field's Washington" will be a boon, and the history of the nation cannot be written

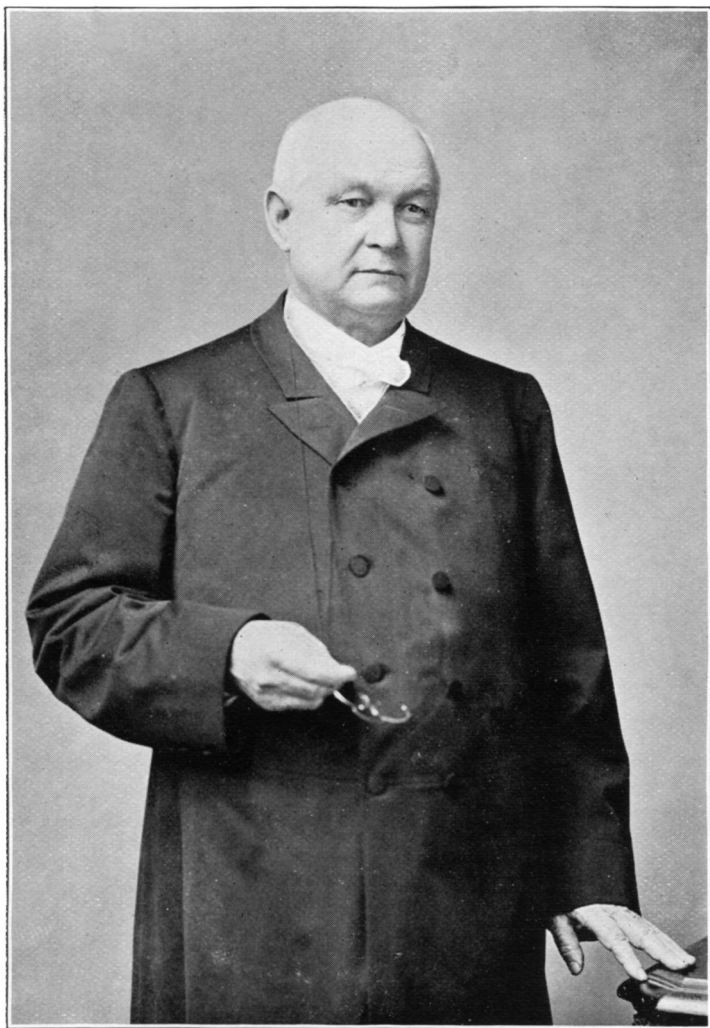
fairly without recognition of the journal and the shaping of public affairs through its influence.

Kate Field's agency in instituting the Columbia Historical Society is especially noteworthy to members of that body. When the project was broached, it immediately received her personal support and the support of her journal; she attended the preliminary conference and the meeting for organization, and despite the pressure of other interests and the weight of failing health, was a fairly regular attendant at the meetings of Board and Society so long as she remained in Washington, and adequate notices of the proceedings were promptly printed in the columns of her review. By her associates in the formation of this Society, Kate Field will long be held in pleasant memory.

There came a time when Miss Field was compelled to feel that the task of continuing her multifarious activities, including the maintenance of her review, was too great for her strength, and with characteristic honesty she explained to her subscribers that, since personal journalism involved personal attention, and since personal attention was no longer possible, the publication must terminate. Relieved of this share of her burden, she sought the isles of the sunset, ostensibly and primarily for rest, yet (as those who knew her character were well aware) to see with her own eyes new possibilities for the future of her nation. For a time the rest was sweet to tired mind and body, and she was refreshed; but the renewal of activity soon outran the restoration of strength, a slight shock proved too much for an enfeebled system, and the end came without warning.

When Kate Field died, Hawaii mourned; when the news crossed the Pacific, the great people of whom she was a representative mourned even more bitterly; yet their sorrow was tempered with the satisfaction of recalling the stainless life and noble achievements of one of the brightest among them.

W J MCGEE.



JOSEPH MEREDITH TONER, M. D.

MEMORIAL OF JOSEPH MEREDITH TONER

Joseph Meredith Toner was born in the city of Pittsburg, in the State of Pennsylvania, on April 30, A. D. 1825. He was the elder of two brothers, sons of Meredith Toner and Ann Layton, both of them also natives of Pennsylvania. Joseph received his early education in the common schools of the city of Pittsburg, and subsequently of Westmoreland County, to which his mother, who was early left a widow, removed during the boyhood of the subject of our sketch, and where she died and was buried. Afterwards he attended for a time the Western Pennsylvania University and Mount St. Mary's College at Emmitsburg, in the State of Maryland; but he never completed a classical course in either institution.

Developing a taste for the science of medicine, he entered, in A. D. 1847, the office of Dr John Lowman, then the leading physician of Johnstown, in the State of Pennsylvania. After two years of study and practical experience under the tuition of Dr Lowman, he attended lectures at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia during the winter of 1849-1850; and subsequently he entered the Medical College at Woodstock, in the State of Vermont, from which, in June, A. D. 1850, he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He was then fully qualified to enter upon the practice of his chosen profession.

In the year 1850 the Pennsylvania Railroad Company was engaged in what was at the time regarded as a gigantic and extremely difficult enterprise, the reconstruction of its road across the Alleghany mountains in such manner as to eliminate the old Portage system, so well known to the older residents of the mountain counties, and whereby it was necessary to haul the trains up the mountains by means of several inclines and stationary engines. As part of the new system

it was resolved to pierce the culminating ridge and bore a tunnel through the mountains for the passage of the road through the bowels of the earth, a matter of comparative facility in this present age, but at that time a most difficult enterprise and attended with many casualties.

There was a fine field for the skill of the surgeon and the science of the physician. There had been a physician in the neighborhood, who for many years had been almost the sole practitioner in a wide circuit extending from Hollidaysburg to Ebensburg; but he had just died, and the field was open to the first enterprising occupant that should seize the opportunity. At that moment Dr. Toner returned fresh from his studies in Vermont, and settled at the little village of Summit, a place of about four hundred inhabitants, situated, as its name would imply, on the crest of the mountains, a station on the old Portage road, although now off the reconstructed line, and a little to the west of the western end of the tunnel. It was historic ground. It was on the turnpike between Hollidaysburg and Ebensburg, long the main line of communication between the East and the West: and the whole country around had been made famous in the early days of the century by the missionary labors of the noted Russian Prince-Priest Demetrius Galitzin.

That Dr. Toner, then in the heyday and amid all the enthusiasm of youth, availed himself of the opportunity that was thus presented to him of an active and successful practice, even those who knew him only in his later years of comparative retirement may well appreciate. But the opportunity had its limitations. When the great tunnel was completed, the field of practice became narrowed again to that of the ordinary country practitioner; and this did not satisfy the somewhat ambitious aspirations of Dr. Toner. Before selecting a new field, however, he resolved to improve himself by a new course of study at Jefferson College, from which he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in A. D. 1853. As already stated, he had previously received the same degree from the Medical College, at Woodstock, in Vermont.

He now resolved to return to the city of his birth, and he established himself in Pittsburg.

The cholera devastated Pittsburg, with other cities of the Union, in 1854; and our young practitioner had ample opportunity to display his skill in coping with this dreaded scourge of our race. It is stated that he was quite successful with his cases, and that he seemed to have an excellent prospect for the successful practice of his profession in Pittsburg. But whether he deemed his progress there to be too slow, or whether he was inspired, as youth will often be, by the love of adventure, he yielded to the solicitations of a former college friend, Hon. William Walsh, of Cumberland, in the State of Maryland, and took up his residence for a time in that little mountain city. It was only a halting place between Pittsburg and his ultimate place of destination. Casting inquisitive glances from side to side, at Harper's Ferry, New Orleans and Norfolk, he was induced at last to take up his residence in Washington, on the 7th of November, A. D. 1855. He had at last found his true sphere of operations. He knew but two persons in Washington at the time, one of them a schoolmate at Emmitsburg. When he died, all Washington knew him, and all Washington loved him.

About the time of his arrival in Washington, the Crimean war was in progress. The young physician, eager for distinction in his profession, offered his services to the Russian government through the Russian Minister to the United States. But through the delays of what is known as the circumlocution office, no action seems ever to have been taken upon his offer. Ample opportunity for the same services, however, was approaching in our own country. Our own great war came; and for four years Washington was one vast hospital. Without stint and without hope of remuneration Dr. Toner's services were given in that great emergency. And then it was that his active mind began to devise some of the many schemes of charity and humanitarianism which then and afterwards took shape and substance in realization.

The Washington infirmary was burned in 1861: it was

mainly through Dr. Toner's efforts that the present Providence hospital was established in its place. He was one of the promoters and founders of St. Anne's infant asylum and of St. Joseph's orphan asylum; and to these, as well as to several other similar institutions, his professional services were rendered gratuitously for many years. He was active also in the establishment of the Garfield hospital. And for many years and up to the time of his death he was one of the board of managers of the Government Hospital for the Insane, otherwise known as St. Elizabeth's, in the operations of which he evinced a most zealous and devoted interest and most conscientious care. In fact, everything that had for its purpose the amelioration of the woes of our suffering humanity had his warmest sympathy and his earnest coöperation.

The Medical society of the District of Columbia, with which he became connected soon after his arrival in Washington and of which he subsequently became president, and the American Medical Association, an organization of the physicians of the United States, into which he infused new life in 1865, and of which he also became president at a subsequent date (A. D. 1873), were both objects of great interest to him, and both elicited from him papers and addresses of very great value and importance from a scientific and hygienic point of view.

In 1872 he established the Toner Lectures for the advancement of science and the promotion of research for the discovery of scientific truth, especially in the domain of medicine. And the same zeal for the promotion of science it was that induced him to give a medal for several years at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, and also to found a medal to be awarded for scientific research at the University of Georgetown.

We are all more or less familiar with his magnificent donation of his library, probably the largest library in the United States of local American history, containing about 28,000 bound volumes and about 18,000 pamphlets, to the

people of the United States in 1882, to be kept as a distinct collection in the Library of Congress, for which donation he received the thanks of Congress, and was complimented by having his bust in marble placed in the Library. Another library, a duplicate to a certain extent of that which he presented to the United States, he donated to the Cambria County Medical Society at Johnstown, in the State of Pennsylvania, in recognition of the fact that in that county, at Johnstown and at Summit, his professional career had been begun.

In the later years of his life Dr. Toner gradually withdrew himself from the active practice of his profession, although he never wholly abandoned it; and he gave himself up more to literary pursuits, and especially to the elucidation of the life of George Washington. Probably there was no man in America more thoroughly familiar with the life of Washington than he was. He published, with annotations, several of Washington's journals, diaries, and other writings; and he was a most industrious collector of Washington's letters and of contemporary papers having reference to him. Nor will it soon be forgotten by those of us who had the pleasure of his hospitality that it was admiration for the Father of our Country that induced him to gather around himself, on successive years, all of us whom he could on the day honored by all of us as the natal day of Washington.

Of his papers and addresses, other than his writings relative to Washington, he published upwards of fifty, nearly all of them upon medical or hygienic subjects: but some were of a biographical character, and some, like his "Notes on the burning of Theatres" and his "Dictionary of Elevations," were on subjects of more general interest. All, however, in accordance with the well known tendency of his mind, had a distinctly humanitarian and utilitarian purpose.

The suggestion for the establishment of this Society did not originate with Dr. Toner, but it met with a hearty response from him; and the scheme was consummated at his residence. How many schemes for the good of the community and the welfare of our race were discussed and consummated

at his hospitable home! As one who knew him well, I might fill many a page with the narrative of the many philanthropic enterprises that were there considered, some of them of course never realized, but all of them in keeping with the tenor of his life for good and noble deeds.

He was one of the charter members of this Society; and the eminent propriety of his selection as its first President was so universally recognized that the work of organization thereby became greatly simplified. And it may in truth be added that the success, which has thus far attended the Society, is due in a great measure to his fostering care.

But even then he was in failing health. To some of us the truth was known at the time. To some of us the shadow had been manifested of the rustling of the dark Angel's wings. We knew that it was only a question of months, scarcely any longer of years. And he himself knew that his days were numbered; and calmly and systematically he prepared for the inevitable event.

Curious it is that often, when life's sands are running low, we seek the haunts of youth or the home of childhood. Dr Toner's last days were spent in the counties of Westmoreland and Cambria, in the State of Pennsylvania, at the home of his mother and his own boyhood's home, and in the very midst of the scenes where his professional career had been begun forty-six years before. It was a great pleasure to him during the few weeks immediately preceding his death to visit the friends of his youth and the scenes of his early life at Hollidaysburg, Ebensburg, Loretto, Wildwood, Gallitzin, and Summit. He visited Johnstown, endeared to him by many pleasant memories. He visited Derry, where was his mother's grave and where had been her and his home. It was pathetic to see this longing for the friends and the scenes of other days: for it was prophetic of the approaching crisis.

When he returned to Cresson from his last visit, which was to his brother at Derry, it was evident that the hand of death was upon him. The next day was one of suffering; and yet he maintained the unvarying cheerfulness for which he was

noted. After dinner he resolved to retire to his room, and he remarked: "I am going to rest." These words were his last; and they were prophetic. At sunset he was found dead in his chair, his eyes closed in the calm sleep of eternal rest, and the benevolence of soul which had been so greatly characteristic of him during life still leaving its profound impress upon his countenance. He died on Thursday, the 30th day of July, A. D. 1896, within half a mile of the village of Summit where forty-six years before he had entered upon his professional career.

Upon a summer Sunday afternoon, in the little village churchyard on the hills of Derry, between the great ridges of the Alleghanies, within a stone's throw of the home where his mother had lived and died, to a grave beside his mother's grave, we consigned all that was mortal of Joseph M. Toner. His spirit lives; and his memory will not soon perish from the hearts of those who knew him, and knowing had reason to love him.

I do not think it is too much to say of our deceased and honored friend, what Fitz-Greene Halleck said of Joseph Rodman Drake:

"None knew thee but to love thee
None named thee but to praise."

His was a genial and kindly nature. As physician, as philanthropist, as citizen, as friend, he endeared himself to all who had the pleasure of intercourse with him. He never spoke an unkind word of any one. He never sought to detract from others one iota of the merit due to them, while laudably ambitious of fame for himself. In the sick room he was a ray of sunshine, a comforter and consoler as well as physician. In council he was always wise and prudent; in conduct, always moderate and conservative. He never shrunk from responsibility, while he never loved the hazardous. He was an earnest, true, and sincere friend, and a public-spirited citizen. While not a man of classical education or great scholastic attainments, he had a truly philo-

sophic mind, always an earnest seeker after truth, always an earnest inquirer into the reason of things and the philosophy of human action. Of him it may be truly said, that the world is better for that he has lived. Those who knew him best will miss him most. The friends who were closest to him appreciate that friendship such as his never comes but once in a lifetime.

The mortal remains lie mouldering in that little village graveyard on the hills of Derry ; but the noble kindly spirit, we may trust, is yet with us. To the memory of such a man this Society should especially render honor. As I have stated, he was its first, and thus far its only President. The latest efforts of his life were expended in the insurance of its success. I am authorized to report the following resolution, to be placed, with this memorial, upon the minutes of the proceedings of the Society :

Whereas it has pleased the Providence that rules the world to call from us by death in the full maturity of his years and after a life well spent in kindly deeds our honored President, Joseph Meredith Toner, and it is fitting that we should give due expression of our regard for him on the records of the Society to be an evidence of his worth to after generations, now, therefore, be it—

Resolved, That in the death of Joseph Meredith Toner we recognize the loss to us of a most worthy member and associate, one to whom the Society is under lasting obligations for his efforts in its establishment and his kindly care in the furtherance of its purposes, a faithful friend, a true philanthropist, a zealous physician, an upright citizen, and an honest man, one to be long remembered with the simple great ones gone forever and ever by.

And be it further resolved, That this memorial and these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the proceedings of the Society, and that a copy of them be transmitted to the brother of the deceased as his next of kin.

MARTIN F. MORRIS.